

Nov 15, 1861

The USS San Jacinto Commanded  
by Captain Charles Wilkes, dropped  
anchor in Hampton Roads, Virginia.  
On board its prisoners were James  
Mason of Virg & John Slidell  
of Louisiana, Confederate  
Commissioners to the Government  
of England and France, respectively.  
Acting in his own name, Capt. Wilkes had stopped the

British mail steamer "Trent" on its way  
from Havana, Cuba to Southampton, England  
& forcibly removed the 2 commissioners  
& their male secretaries. The British  
reacted angrily.

The U. S. cabinet decided at a Christmas  
Day meeting in 1861 to turn the prisoners  
loose. One of Her Majesty's ships docked  
at Boston to pick up Mason & Slidell; the  
case was closed.

Dec 1861

Banks no longer redeemed  
paper money for coins.

This resulted in an increase  
in the value of the coins, which  
encouraged hoarding.

To remedy this; In 1862 Congress  
authorized the issuance of fractional  
currency.

First issue (1862), in denominations

45-, 10-, 25-, and 50-cent notes,  
is known to collector as Postage Currency  
(1863) Second issue had Washington  
pictures on all notes.

(1864) Third issue. Washington still  
appeared on 10-cent note and also  
on a new three-cent note (to  
facilitate purchase of 3¢ stamp)

34

JAN. 29, 1861

KANSAS  
STATE

34TH

Feb 1, 1861

Texas voted to secede from  
the Union.

Mar 3, 1861

Edict of Emancipation  
Famously known measure by which  
CZAR ALEXANDER I liberated  
all Russian serfs  
3/3/1861.

1861

Electric furnace

Invented by German-British  
inventor Sir William Siemens  
(1825-1883); patented 1896

by American inventor Edward  
E. G. Acheson (1856-1931)



Feb-1861

February Patent  
new federal "constitution"  
issued by Emperor Franz  
Joseph establishing a  
bicameral parliament  
that gave German bourgeoisie  
strong representation.

Sep. 2, 1861

Battle of Dry Wood Creek, Mo  
Confederates won victory against  
Union Kansas forces at Dry  
Wood Creek, Mo. at beginning  
of U.S. Civil War.

Sept 24, 1861

Balloons for Rcn.

Balloonist Thedden Lowe  
proved worth of the recently created  
civilian Balloon Corps when he  
rose 1000 ft above Arlington, Va  
and spotted Confederate troops  
in Falls Church, 3 mi away  
and telegraphed their position  
to the Union troops.

1861

Steam Operated Elevator  
patented by American  
inventor Elisha G. Otis  
(1811-1861)

1912 Dates\_ J-BK

Nov. 8, 1861

### TRENT AFFAIR

Capt. Charles Wilkes of the U.S. San Jacinto stopped the British mail steamer TRENT on the high seas, taking off John Slidell and James M. Mason, Confederate commissioners to England and France. The North applauded. Lincoln and Seward realizing the gravity of the act, yielded both men with apology.

1861

1912 Dates J-BK

(1818-1903) Richard Jordan GATLING

American inventor. Born in Hartford County, N.C. His principal invention was the revolving gun (1861), which he later improved. The gun was adopted for use by the U.S. (1866), and by several European governments. Among his other inventions may be noted a steam plow, a hemp-breaking machine, and a new

gunmetal of steel and aluminum.  
He invented the Gatling firearm.